

Within the past year some very fine imitations of diamonds have been put upon the New York market, far surpassing in impidity and retentive power the best pastes formerly known to the public. These imitations, like the old ones, purport to be species of cheap diamonds from the gold-producing countries of the world, but the appellations are purely fictitious, for such are only superior imitations of paste. Some dealers claim them to be a kind of quartz, but that is true only to the extent that pulverized quartz enters into their composition, whereas the real diamonds, which are composed of silica or other ingredients, they are not cut from the solid quartz, which is less brilliant than the common pastes. The exact process of making these highly superior imitations is known only to the manufacturers—in Paris or Germany, for not one is made in this country, so far as known—and is, of course, jealously guarded by them.

Notable jeweller attempts to pass off paste as diamonds. Swindlers may sometimes buy fine specimens from the dealers and trade them away at the regular diamond price, but such are not rare, for any person of the least common sense, or thought of purchasing a diamond from an individual not in the trade, would be sure to consult a jeweler or other expert in precious stones, by whom the fraud would be detected in an instant. No paste can stand all the tests of the diamond. Its warmth to the touch, its retention of moisture, the ease with which it can be scratched by agate or tephz, the minute air-bubbles which a microscope discovers in its depths, all prove it to be an imitation. But the skillful eye can tell the real diamond from the false at a glance. The former has a crystalline lustre, a glitter of refracted light, which the pastes just miss. None but the most experienced judges can retain a memory of the genuineness of the diamond, and the genuineness of the diamond, so that they can always apply it as a test.

Ordinary judges will be deceived by the improved pastes; and any lady, who might be expected to be a victim of her artifice, to wear diamonds, may swing on her fingers, without fear of detection, till the brightness of the imitation has departed; for it goes sooner or later, with the most careful handling, and the lustre of crystallized carbon is its one precious wholly imitable quality. This permanence or stability, it may be remarked, characterizes the precious things of nature, gold, silver, ivory, and every one of the gems. Imitations, which are almost every in other respects, fail in that. It is nature's last, impassable barrier against art in the paste manufacturers.

A more interesting branch of the subject is the chemical, or strictly scientific production of diamonds from their native material carbon. One of the first chemists in the world have devoted the last years of their lives to this task. Microscopic diamonds have been made or are reported to have been. Becquerel, a French chemist, produced minute crystallizations of diamond by electrolysis of carbon in a slow action of electricity on box-wood charcoal (a very pure form of carbon), but they were nearly black. Another Frenchman last year claimed to have made diamonds, by the reaction of phosphorus and carbon, the matter being under water. The sulphide of carbon dissolved the phosphorus, and the latter, it was said, slowly combined with the sulphur, forming the carbon crystals. The ordinary attempts to decompose the fluid by electric action, both under and over water, have failed. The sulphide of carbon in small grains, on the other, silver has a powerful affinity for sulphur; and an electric current, the effect of which is to decompose the fluid, having separated the carbon in that way, nothing came of it after ten years' experimenting.

A French chemist has brought out, during the last year, an entirely new process of making diamonds directly from charcoal, by the action of borax, which he claims dissolves the carbon at a high heat, yielding one pound of brilliant of the first water per pound of charcoal. It is further said that the patent for this process has been taken out by the inventor for the United States, as well as for all other countries where "sparklers" are in request. Such a discovery, if true, would revolutionize the jewelry trade, and the chemist, who has probably known that nothing can be more absurd than the alleged discovery.

It is quite safe to predict what science will not do; but this much may be said, that the prospect of making diamonds artificially from carbon, except in Nature's secret and awful laboratory of the ages, is the only one of the kind, and the only one of the "philosophers' stone."—New York Journal of Commerce.

**WHITE VIRGIN WAX OF ANTILLES.**—A new French Cosmetic for beautifying, whitening, and preserving the complexion. It is the most perfect of all cosmetics. There is neither chalk, powder, magnesia, bismuth, or talc in its composition, it being composed entirely of pure Virgin wax, which is the most perfect of all preservatives, making it soft, smooth, fair, and translucent. It makes the old appear young, the young more beautiful, and the complexion more beautiful. Price 25 cents. Made in France.

**HUNT'S BLOOM OF ROSES.**—A most perfect color for the cheeks or lips, does not wash off or injure the complexion. It is the most perfect of all cosmetics. Price 25 cents. Made in France.

**TOILET POWDER.**—For whitening and preserving the skin. Price 25 cents. Made in France.

**WASHING POWDER.**—For washing and preserving the skin. Price 25 cents. Made in France.

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**ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY.** OFFICE 514 P. AVENUE, D. C. GREAT EASTERN, NORTHERN, AND WESTERN EXPRESS FORWARDERS.

**NEW YORK AND BOSTON.** Forwarded with SAFETY AND DISPATCH to all accessible sections of the country. This Company has the largest fleet of steamships in the world. NORTH, EAST, WEST, AND NORTHWEST. Its principal offices are: NEW YORK, BOSTON, PHILADELPHIA, BALTIMORE, CINCINNATI, ST. LOUIS, LOUISVILLE, PITTSBURGH, CLEVELAND, DETROIT, CHICAGO, ST. PAUL, MINNEAPOLIS, SPOKANE, PORTLAND, SEASIDE, SAN FRANCISCO, LIVERPOOL, SOUTHAMPTON, and HAVRE. Connections are made at New York and Boston, and lines forwarding to the CANADAS and the WEST. The company's steamships are the fastest and most comfortable in the world. Collection of NOTES, DRAFTS, and BILLS made at all accessible parts of the world. C. DUNN, Agent. 403 Washington St., D. C.

**United States 10-40 Loan.**

**JAY COOK & CO.,** 469 Fifteenth Street, Washington, D. C.

**RECEIVE SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE NEW NATIONAL LOAN**

**TEN-FORTY BONDS.** being redeemable at the pleasure of the Government, after ten years, and payable four years from date in coin, bearing interest at FIVE PER CENT A YEAR, payable on bonds not over \$100 annually, and on large bonds semi-annually, IN GOLD.

**THE COUPON BONDS** will be issued in \$50, \$100, \$500, and \$1,000.

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## OFFICIAL.

WAR DEPARTMENT, June 19, 1864.

The funeral and all the expenses incident to the interment of the late Major General, will be paid by the Department. You will not spare any means to express the respect and sympathy of the Government for the deceased, and to the survivors.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

JEFFERSON J. W. TAYLOR, Auditor.

WAR DEPARTMENT, June 18, 1864.

Persons having claims against a balance due from the United States to Dennis Gremier, deceased, a Frenchman, residing in Paris, France, who was killed in the battle of Gettysburg, to present such claims, properly authenticated, to this office, within four months after the above date.

JEFFERSON J. W. TAYLOR, Auditor.

WAR DEPARTMENT, June 18, 1864.

General Orders No. 213-1. All sick and wounded officers, absent from their commands, and not in the duty in the field, or in the hospital, will be immediately reported to the Adjutant General, and their names and address to the Adjutant General of the Army.

All officers and regimental medical officers, now on leave, in the Department of the East, in New Jersey, in the eastern part of Pennsylvania, and the eastern part of Maryland, if able to travel, will report to the nearest Medical Director, or to the nearest Surgeon, for active service, but able to do hospital duty, will be ordered to report immediately at the hospital at Camp Parole, near Annapolis, Maryland, or to the nearest Surgeon in charge may require of them.

By order of the Secretary of War:

E. D. TOWNSEND, Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS PROTESTANT MARSHAL AND BOARD OF ENROLLMENT OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, Washington, D. C., June 18, 1864.

The Board of Enrollment of the District of Columbia will be in session at the office of the Protestant Marshal District of Columbia, corner of Fourteenth Street and New York Avenue, on Sunday, June 19, 1864, at 10 o'clock, a. m., for the purpose of hearing cases of exemption from draft for the following causes, viz:

Non-residence;

Unsuitability of age;

Manifest permanent physical disability;

Two years' service during the present war, Maryland, and every one of the gems. Imitations, which are almost every in other respects, fail in that. It is nature's last, impassable barrier against art in the paste manufacturers.

Citizens are requested to furnish information as to persons who are not enrolled, or who are trying to avoid enrollment, as it is equally for interest of the person enrolled to place upon the Enrollment List all persons liable to do military duty, so that his own chance for draft shall not be unjustly increased.

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## PROPOSALS.

PROPOSALS FOR STATIONERY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, June 18, 1864.

Proposals for furnishing stationery, as may be required by this Department, and the bureau and offices thereof, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1865, will be received at the Department, on TUESDAY, the 5th day of July, 1864. Those unaccompanied by satisfactory testimonials of the ability of the bidder to furnish the stationery, and contracts will only be awarded to manufacturers, or to dealers in, the several classes of articles.

All articles furnished must be of the best quality of their kind, and not inferior to the samples exhibited at this Department, and to the lowest responsible bidder.

Each proposal must be signed by the individual or firm making it, and must specify both one price for each article, and the ability to furnish the same.

All articles required under a contract must be delivered, on the order of the proper bureau or office, without delay, and, if requested, must conform to the order of the proper bureau or office.

The contractor to furnish proper articles will be deemed to have accepted the contract.

Bonds with approved security, must be given by the contractor to secure the faithful performance of the contract, and to secure the return of the articles furnished.

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